Water issues related to farming in Miami-Dade County

January 8, 2015

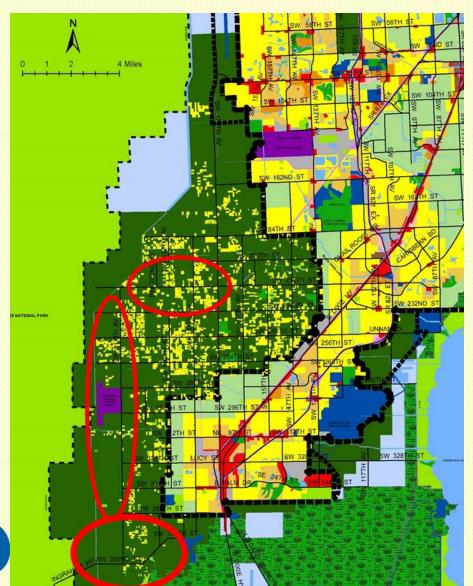


The Economic Numbers

- \$660 million in annual sales
- \$2.7 billion annual economic impact
- 20,000 jobs
- #2 county in Florida based on crop value
- #18 in USA based on crop value
- Rank #1 in Florida for snap beans, nursery products, avocados and squash
- #2 in Florida for sweet corn



Areas of concern





Water table has been raised which reduces capacity to accommodate even modest rainfalls



429 field on October 22 after 0.3 inches of rain



Photo taken: 10/22/2014 9:23 AM



Ground saturation disrupting normal planting periods/market windows



Accursio South, November 21, 2014





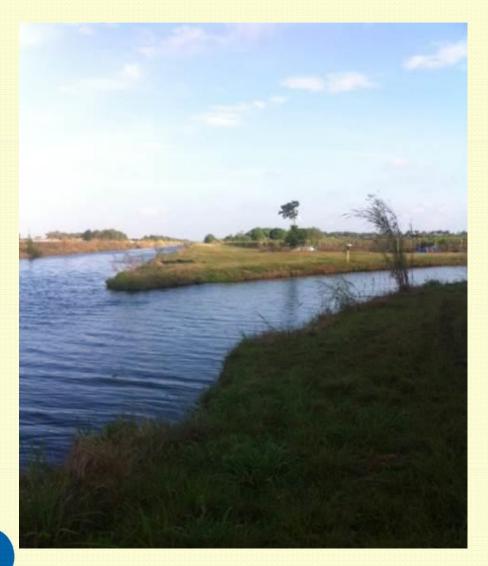
Photo taken: 11/21/2014

Squash die off Accursio South





L-31 & C-103 12/23/14





Below is a list of November rainfall and departure from normal statistics (in inches) for select locations:

Location (Beginning of Period of Record)	Nov. 2014 Rain	Departure from Normal	Top 10 Rank
Big Cypress - Hendry County	2.81		
Brighton Seminole Campground	3.35		
Canal Point (1941)	1.62	-1.05	
Ft Lauderdale/Hollywood Int'l Airport (1912)	2.92	-0.61	
Fort Lauderdale Beach	2.64		
Fort Lauderdale Executive Apt	2.72		
Hialeah (1940)	2.47	-1.16	
Hollywood (1963)	2.68	-0.73	
Homestead General Airport (1990)	2.33	-0.26	
Immokalee (1970)	1.58	-0.48	
Juno Beach	2.96		
LaBelle (1929)	3.18	+0.98	



Even modest changes in elevation (< 10") mean the difference of plant survival



Zucchini die off with less than 12" change in elevation SW 280 St & 224 Ave





Farms used to be able to absorb a moderate rain during the dry season



429 Farm last February after 1.6 inches of rain





2/13/2014 9:06 AM

Avocados are a good indicator of water table



Root fungus die off in grove over 30 years old





Dieback consistent with water damage





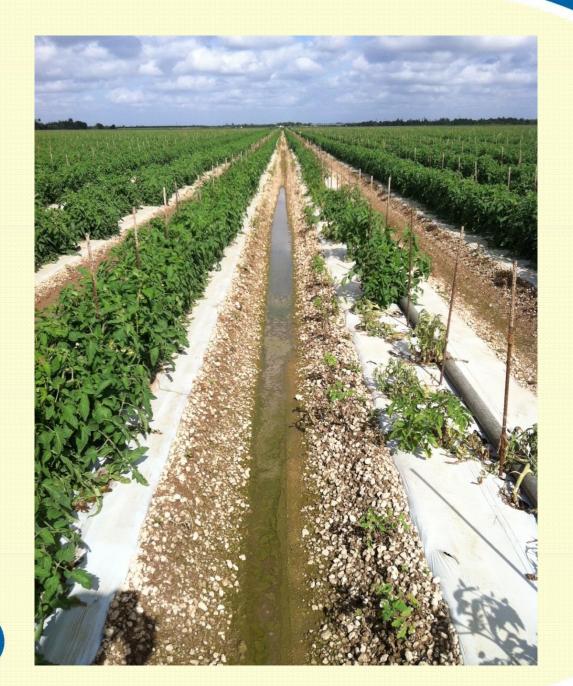
Surface and sub-surface flooding is creating disease problems in crops



Bacteria in field due to standing water February 2014









Growing conditions have degraded significantly due to the high water table to the extent that the future of agriculture is in doubt in many areas



Contact

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http://www.miamidade.gov/agriculture/home.asp







